

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A reporting system for creating a report using a computer comprising:

a prompt object comprising a question to be asked of a user and at least one validation property, the prompt object being used to define some or every aspect of a report definition; and  
a resolution object for collecting an answer to a question of the prompt object;  
wherein the resolution object is created and stored prior to the execution of a report.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the resolution object is created by a third party outside of the reporting system.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the stored resolution object is used to answer a prompt in a report instance during the execution of a report.

4. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein an answer from a stored resolution object is used to modify a default answer to a prompt in a report.

5. (Original) The system according to claim 3, wherein the resolution object causes the suppression of a prompt.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the report is scheduled to execute at a future time.

7. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein a resolution object converts itself from XML into [[a]] another format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting system from a third party source.

8. (Currently Amended) A method performed using a computer of processing a report with one or more prompt objects to be executed in a reporting system comprising the steps of:

selecting a template with one or more template properties;

selecting a filter with one or more filter properties, wherein one or more of the template or filter properties has been specified with a prompt object, the prompt object defining some or every part of a report definition;

selecting a stored resolution object comprising answers to a question of the prompt object, the stored resolution object having been stored prior to execution of the report; and

processing the report using the stored resolution object to answer prompt object questions.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the resolution object is created by an entity different than the entity processing the report.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the stored resolution object is used to answer a prompt in a report instance during the execution of a report.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein an answer from a stored resolution object is used to modify a default answer to a prompt in a report.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the resolution object causes the suppression of a prompt.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the report is scheduled to execute at a future time.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein a resolution object converts itself from XML into [[a]] another format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting system from a third party source.

15. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium comprising code for execution by a processor to create a report to be executed on a reporting system, the medium comprising:

code for causing a processor to enable a user to select a template with one or more template properties;

code for causing a processor to enable a user to select a filter with one or more filter properties selecting a template with one or more template properties, wherein one or more of the template or filter properties has been specified with a prompt object, the prompt object defining some or every aspect of a report definition;

code for causing a processor to enable a user to select a stored resolution object comprising answers to a question of the prompt object, the stored resolution object having been stored prior to execution of the report; and

code for causing a processor to process the report using the stored resolution object to answer prompt object questions.

16. (Original) The medium according to claim 15, wherein the resolution object is created by an entity other than the entity processing the report.

17. (Original) The medium according to claim 15, wherein the stored resolution object is used to answer a prompt in a report instance during execution of the report.

18. (Original) The medium according to claim 17, wherein the resolution object causes the suppression of a prompt.

19. (Original) The medium according to claim 15, wherein the report is scheduled to execute at a future time.

20. (Currently Amended) The medium according to claim 15, wherein a resolution object converts itself from XML into [[a]] another format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting system from a third party source.

21. (Currently Amended) A resolution for use as part of a computerized reporting system for responding to prompt objects in a report, wherein the prompt object comprises a question to be asked of a user and at least one validation property, the resolution object comprising, the prompt object defining some or every part of the report definition:

a resolution object for collecting an answer to a question of the prompt object;

wherein the resolution object is created and stored prior to the execution of a report.

22. (Original) The resolution object of claim 21 which is created by a third party outside of the reporting system.

23. (Currently Amended) The resolution object of claim 21 comprising code for converting its format from XML into [[a]] another format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting system from a third party source.